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LONE SCOUTS' PRINCIPLE

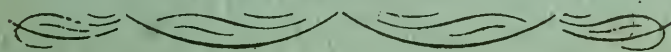


A TWO ACT SCOUT PLAY



BY MILTON F. METHFESSEL.

"MILFRAMET-LSXVII"



Respectfully Dedicated

to my true friend and brother scout

Edward Courtney

whose comradeship has been truly
appreciated.

THE LONE SCOUTS' PRINCIPLE

A TWO ACT LONE SCOUT PLAY

BY MILTON F. METHFESSEL

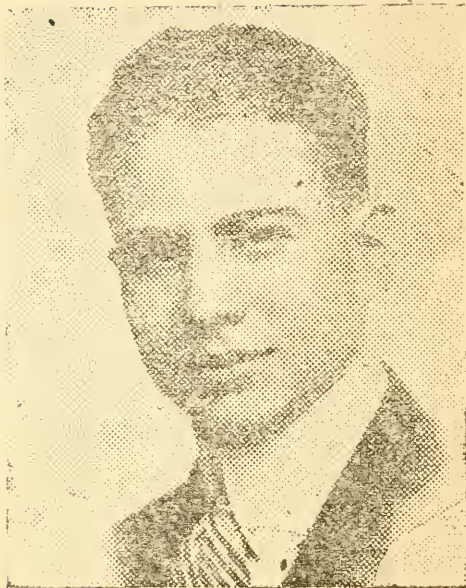
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CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

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Milton F. Methfessel

"MILFRAMET-LSXVII"

JUN -5 1918

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The
LONE SCOUTS PRINCIPLE
By Milton F. Methfessel

FOREWORD

Without any doubt it was pure inspiration that inspired the writer to the task of preparing this small book for the advancement of Lone Scout Principle and Ideals. It has been set forth in print in the form of a play, because the plot was excellently adapted for such, and originally was intended for that use. Our Lone Scout Tribes are becoming more and more lax in this matter, and that is one of the things we must guard against. The literary side of our scouts should be developed as well as the adventure spirit and "having a good time." Well can the literary side of the scout be brought to light by presentation of a play, and the one such as is contained in this book is left largely to the ingenuity of the players in being worked out. The characters should put their very best into the production, and put themselves into the feeling of the play. Guard against "saying words." The writer will feel well repaid for his work if every Lone Scout Tribe which exhibits the play will write to him of the success.

MILTON F. METHFESSEL,

CEDAR FALLS, IOWA.

MAY 1, 1918.

The Lone Scouts' Principle.

By Milton F. Methfessel.

Cast of Characters:- Captain of tribe, tribe members, farmer, his son, and city tough.

ACT I.

Scene 1. In the Lone Scout Club House. Curtain rises with the scouts all occupied in reading, playing games, etc. All are present except the Captain and Scout Charles Pilson.

(Enter Scout Pilson).

Charles. . Hurrah, hurrah! Whee!

All. What's the matter?

Charles. Matter? Look here! Our Lone Scouts have come!

All. Give me mine! Here first! Mine! Mine! etc.

Walter Smith. Say, fellows, isn't that the best cover they ever have had. Say, look at all those Lone Scouts. Wish I were one of those fellows in the picture.

All. So do we.

Walter. Hurrah! They've answered the question I asked them. (Look up small question in Lone Scout and he reads aloud). They're mighty accomodating.

Robert Jenkins. Say, "_____", "their continued story is just fine, isn't it? Are you fellows reading it? I've read it all through. "_____" sure is a hero, isn't he?

Cleon Morgan. I am reading it. Are you Walter?

Walter. Yes, you bet I am. It's dandy.

(Charles, sets up a yell. All the scouts jump up and see him waving his "Lone Scout in the air, and shouting, "They put it in! They put it in!"

James McManus What did they put in?

Charles. My story! Hurrah! And they gave me a bronze merit medal for it too! Say, just look at the picture they used to illus--

Cleon. You have nothing on me, Mr. Charles. I won a silver merit medal in the contest I entered in. Look at that. (Shows it in "Lone Scout). Now, I don't make such a big fuss about it either!

(Boys stare in surprise at the essay, and then clap Cleon on the back, congratulating him)

(Enter Captain. Boys set up a yell)

Captain Well, boys, what's all the excitement.

James. Oh! Everything! We've just received our "Lone Scouts" and they have published what you sent in that big package with all our contributions together. That's excitement enough is'nt it?

Walter. They published and answered the question I asked them!

Charles. I won a bronze merit medal.

Cleon. I luckily won a silver one.

Captain That's fine, boys The issue this time is full of great surprises. I received my copy yesterday, and have seen all these things. You sure are to be congratulated. Turn to the Messenger Department. All of our names are there also. I am glad I sent that bundle of contributions to Chief Totem at one time, because it makes it practically our own tribe's issue. Now, all lay down your "Lone Scouts" face

upward. (They do it). That's right. Now-close your eyes-pick them up-turn them around, and look!

(All shout in great surprise).

All. Our tribe picture! (Other excited exclamations).

Charles. Why, you won a gold merit medal for it too, didn't you? Gee you must have some bunch of medals now. Look at these! (Points to those on Captain). wish I had all those.

Cleon. That gold merit medal beats yours and mine, don't it Charles?

Charles. I should say it does! I'd rather have a gold medal than a silver and bronze put together.

Captain. Everyone arrange your chairs for the meeting. I have some very important business to take up this evening which will require your very closest attention. (They arrange the chairs while he is talking, and he put his desk and chair into place). First of all, I have a boy who desires to become a Lone Scout but I am afraid he has bad habits, like smoking and swearing, and of course that is entirely against our rules. I want a volunteer to watch him closely, for I have given him two weeks in which to reform. With him it will probably be necessary to exercise great caution. Who will volunteer?

All. I.

Captain. Fine. Charles you have the honor.

Charles. Yes, sir.

All. Oh! (dissapointedly)

Captain. (to Charles). Report the night before our camping and we will determine his eligibility.

Charles. Yes, sir..

Captain. Now the business meeting will be called

to order. We will listen to the Roll Call by our secretary, the Holder of the Feather.

(Secretary calls roll. Boys all answer "Here.")

Captain. We will next listen to the minutes of last meeting.

(Secretary reads them)

Captain. Any other business to be taken up? Motions are in order.

Robert. (rising), Mr. Captain, I move we go camping soon.

All. Second the motion.

Captain. (laughing). We sure are going. I intended to tell you about that later but this is probably as opportune a time. There are fine places along the Cedar river. I propose that we take our trek cart, which we built some time ago, and hike along the river until we come to a suitable place. I have your instructions ready for you, which I ran through on the hectograph. Bring all your goods and knapsacks. James, you bring your tent. It will undoubtable hold us all. I'll send some of the fellows to your house with the trek cart.

James. Yes, sir.

Captain. Any other buisness before the house. (silence).

Captain. I then move that the Black Hawk Tribe have a tribe paper, and that Cleon Morgan be made the Editor.

All, in chorus of voices. Second the motion! Just the thing! etc.

Captain. Silence, scouts. (immediate silence).

Captain. Lone Scout Morgan, if you will come to my house tomorrow I will give you instructions as to how to prepare your paper for the printer and also what departments to have in your tribe paper.

Cleon. Yes, sir.

Captain. Next, I want you fellows to go over all your old "Lone Scouts" and make a scrap book of the choicest selections, stories, articles, jokes, and the like. Here is mine. I have just finished it. Divide it into various parts, such as Scouting, Camping, and Miscellaneous. For Camping find how to cook various things and the receipt for them. Everybody do this. A fine prize will be given for the best one. Here is probably where our tribe paper will come in handy because it will save all this explaining.

Charles. (Looking at scrap book). Say, Captain, here is a magic trick. Can you do this one? (arises and shows to leader).

Captain. I probably could but I haven't the material for that one. However, I am prepared to show you another magic trick taken from "Lone Scout." (Explains and gives some trick taken from "Lone Scout.")

Charles. Oh! I see thru that one. (He gives away the secret of the trick).

Captain. The way you scouts can discover things certainly is surprising.

All. That's our principle.

Captain. Have you your "Useful Thing" reports ready yet?

All. Yes, sir. (Captain calls for several, who read the list of "Useful Things" they have done.)

Captain. Well, fellows, do any of you want to take

your tests tonight?

Charles. I do. (Names and gives some Lone Scout test he has prepared).

Cleon. I do. (Names and gives some Lone Scout test he has prepared).

Captain. Now, fellows, we are going camping next week. Here are your instructions. (He passes them out). Everybody here at 6 o'clock.

All. We sure will be!

— Curtain —

ACT II

Scene 1. At camp, in Captain's tent. Captain busy at desk. Orderly at entrance. Farmer is heard outside as if in great excitement.

Farmer. (Without). Say! Let me in there!

Orderly. Your name sir!

Farmer. None of your business, Mr- Impudent!

Captain. Orderly, admit him.

Orderly. Yes, sir.

(Farmer rushes in. He walks to Captains desk, shaking his finger and threatening).

Farmer. Say I want to know what ye young culprits are doin' on my farm. What business have ye here? Answer me thet! I don't allow no trespassers on my land nohow, and I'll give ye to understand to pick up your goods and hike. Get me? (Glares fiercely at Captain).

Captain. I am very sorry about this, sir, and still more sorry to see you in such a state. Just let me explain. (Farmer cooled down)- Set down, won't you?

Farmer. (gruffly). Thanks.

Captain. (Seriously). Now see here. We're just a

bunch of Lone Scouts. I have brought these fellows from the smoky city for a hike and a camp, up the river. I intend to give them a good outing, if all goes well. We intend no mischief whatever, and give you our word of honor to leave every thing just as we found it. Perhaps—(draws out pocketbook).

Farmer. Never mind thet! I don't want none o' thet! (Captain puts away pocketbook).

Farmer. I just thought I'd stop on my way and find out a few things. Last year some fellows about your size came here, and they chopped down the trees and destroyed my woods. They left their camp fire burning, and when I came the grass was all afire. So I made up my mind never to let those fellows in again. I thought you were the same bunch. I guess it's all right—

(Loud noise heard out side. Farmer leaves tent in haste. Soon comes running in with a boy in his arms).

Farmer. (Excitedly). What's the matter, Willie? Did it hurt you? (To Captain). Say, mister, can you help me? There ain't a doctor within six miles. He's broken his arm!

Captain. Lay him on this cot. (Farmer obeys).

(Captain blows whistle three times. Two scouts enter).

Captain. This boy has broken his arm. Try your first aid. (Boys bandage up arm).

Farmer. Well, well! I owe you fellows quite a bit. How do you feel Willie?

Willie. I'm all right now, I guess.

Captain. (to scouts). You are dismissed. (They leave).

Farmer. You see, Willie, my son, followed me down, and I guess he fell over the tent rope and hit that big stone outside. I sure owe you fellows something.

(Orderly enters)

Orderly. Sir, one of the scouts asks admittance.

Captain. Admit him.

(Scout enters with old fashioned wallet in hand).

Scout. Sir, I believe this is that gentleman's. (Nodding to farmer).

Farmer. (reaching in pocket, discovers loss) Well well! So it is! Who'd ever think you fellows were so honest? Thank you, sir. (To Captain). Say, you fellows can camp here all summer if you would like to. He pulls large handkerchief from pocket. It drops. Scout picks it up, and politely hands it to the farmer).

Farmer. Well, well! I never saw such a fine bunch of honest, orderly, and courteous fellows in all my born days. Thank you very much!

Captain. (To scout). You are dismissed. (Scout leaves).

Farmer. Here's a little amount for that honest fellow who gave me my pocketbook.

Captain. I absolutely refuse, sir. It's against the Lone Scout principles to take money for doing our useful things. Thank you, just the same.

Farmer. Well! Well To think I acted so mean with you fellows! You sure are a fine bunch. I apologize a hundred times. I guess you will probably need milk butter and eggs. Call at the house, and I'll supply

you with all you want.

Captain. Thank you, sir.

(Noise outside. Orderly enters).

Orderly. (To Captain). That tough,—I mean— fellow you spoke about at our last meeting has come. You know he said he wanted to be a Lone Scout. He left the city the day after our meeting, as Scout Pilson told you. so he couldn't make his report. Now he's turned up again, and he's been watching the fellows signal, make our test requirements, and the like. He says he *sure* wants to join now, and wants to come in and see you.

Captain. Admit him.

(Boy, dressed as cty tough enters).

Captain. What can I do for you.

Tough. Hello there! Glad ter see yer agin! Say! I wants ter jine them there Lone Scouts! I've been watchin' 'em signal, and pass de test, and I wants to do de same. Kin I jine? I gives ye me word of honor never to go back to the old habits agin. Here's my money so please let me jine.

Captain. (Seriously). Where did you go after you left town a few days ago?

Tough. I went to de country to reform. I heard you fellers were near, so I comes ter tell ye I'd succeeded in reformin'.

Captain. I'll send your application to Chief Totem Boyce. We'll vote you in at our next tribe meeting. Now start on your tests. Orderly, supply our friend with a suit, soap and a towel. See that he is cleaned up correctly.

Orderly. Yes, sir. (They leave),

Farmer. Say, can my boy join them Lone Scouts. I've wanted him to be a better boy, and if he will be like your fellows here at camp, I'll want him to join a thousand times

Captain. He can certainly join the Lone Scouts. Here's his application blank. Send it to Chief Totem Boyce.

Farmer. Thank you, sir. I guess I must leave. Can I give your folks a little speech. I used to be a speech-maker five years ago. Raw for Mayor of our town!

Captain. Certainly.—Orderly!

Orderly. Yes, sir.

Captain. Call the fellows in.

Orderly. Yes, sir. (Blows one long blast on whistle)
Scouts all come in. Sit on ground.

Farmer rises.

Farmer. Scouts! This is indeed a great surprise to me. But I think it will be a bigger one to you. (pulls off whiskers, and Scouts recognize him as the minister of their church).

Scouts. Mr. Brown, our minister and tribe advisor!

Mr. Brown. Yes, Scouts! I wanted to see how you fellows would act, if confronted by difficulties. I wanted to see if the Lone Scouts' principles still held good with you. I want to commend the Captain upon his cool and able manner of handling difficulties. I want to commend the honesty of you Scouts. I dropped my purse and my handkerchief on purpose.

You scouts were honest and courteous. Willie is the real farmers son, but he didn't break his arm. (Willie rises and takes off splints and bandage). Now I 'm afraid I'll have to ask forgiveness for this little trick I have played.—Will you forgive me?

Captain. Sure; that's all in the Lone Scout's principles.

— Curtain —

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